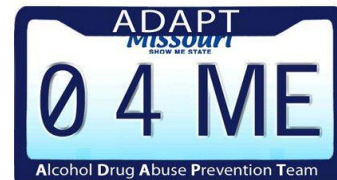


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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Unused Medicine Drop Box**

#### **Branson selected as one of ten permanent drug drop boxes in the state safely dispose of medications**

Taney County residents looking to get rid of their unused, unwanted, or expired medications can now visit the permanent drop box location at the Branson Police Department. This location is one of ten permanent drop box locations across the state, part of Missouri's Youth/Adult Alliance's (MYAA) program to reduce prescription drug abuse.

*"The Taney County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT) has been working closely with the city of Branson Police Department to give Taney County residents an easy way to keep their medicine cabinets clean," said Kara Miller ADAPT chairperson. "We know that in 2010, one in ten Missouri youth abused prescription drugs, so it is important to do as much as possible to make these kinds of substances less available."*

Proper disposal of medications has long been a difficult problem for Missourians. Flushing them pollutes the water supply. Throwing them in the trash makes them an easy target, not only for thieves, but for pets and wildlife. Also, due to regulations, pharmacists are not allowed to take medications back once they are dispensed.

"During the last national Drug Enforcement Agency's take back day, the state of Missouri collected more than 12,000 pounds of medication," said Mona Lara, MYAA Program Director. "With the permanent drop boxes, citizens will not have to wait for a certain day, but rather dispose of unwanted drugs at anytime."

Drugs can be dropped off anytime in the lobby of the police department in Branson's City Hall. There is no paperwork required, just place the medications in the drop box. Things that can be dropped off include prescription and over the counter medications, vitamins, drug samples medications for pets, ointments and lotions. Things that are **NOT ACCEPTED** include needles (sharps), thermometers, bloody or infectious waste, hydrogen peroxide, aerosol cans, inhalers and liquids not in a container.

The ADAPT coalition, formed in 2008 as the Underage Drinking Prevention Team, was nationally recognized in 2010 by the Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) as a Got Outcomes! Milestone Award Winner. The coalition has implemented an alcohol awareness campaign, compliance checks of alcohol retailers, and alcohol server training. In the spring of 2010, the coalition changed their name to "ADAPT" to reflect their goal of expanding prevention efforts throughout Taney County. For more information about ADAPT or to join the coalition, call Kara Miller at (417) 334-4544 ext 225 or email: millek2@lpha.mopublic.org.

MYAA is a statewide coalition made up of both teens and adults that help local communities address problems with underage drinking and drug use. MYAA is a program of ACT Missouri – the statewide training and resource center – and a sister program of the Missouri Recovery Network. For more information visit [www.actmissouri.org](http://www.actmissouri.org).

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